



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506
Phone: (337) 291-3100 Fax: (337) 291-3139



In Reply Refer To:
Consultation Code: 04EL1000-2020-SLI-0482
Event Code: 04EL1000-2020-E-02288
Project Name: State of Louisiana

April 29, 2020

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

***Due to the Louisiana Governor's mandatory quarantine order for the coronavirus (COVID-19), and in order to keep our staff and the public safe, we are unable to accept or respond in a timely manner to consultation request or project review/concurrence that we receive through the U.S. Mail. Please submit your request electronically to lafayette@fws.gov or call 337-291-3100.**

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered and candidate species, as well as designated and proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Changes in this species list may occur due to new information from updated surveys, changes in species habitat, new listed species and other factors. Because of these possible changes, feel free to contact our office (337/291-3126) for more information or assistance regarding impacts to federally listed species. The Service recommends visiting the ECOS-IPaC site or the Louisiana Ecological Services website (www.fws.gov/lafayette) at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updated species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to determine whether projects may affect Federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected (e.g. adverse, beneficial, insignificant or discountable) by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the “Endangered Species Consultation Handbook” at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF> or by contacting our office at the number above.

Bald eagles have recovered and were removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species as of August 8, 2007. Although no longer listed, please be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*). The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute “disturbance,” which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>. Those guidelines recommend: (1) maintaining a specified distance between the activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) maintaining natural areas (preferably forested) between the activity and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding certain activities during the breeding season. On-site personnel should be informed of the possible presence of nesting bald eagles within the project boundary, and should identify, avoid, and immediately report any such nests to this office. If a bald eagle nest occurs or is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting any necessary consultation. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g. cellular, digital television, radio and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm> ; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

Activities that involve State-designated scenic streams and/or wetlands are regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, respectively. We, therefore, recommend that you contact those agencies to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas.

Activities that would be located within a National Wildlife Refuge are regulated by the refuge staff. We, therefore, recommend that you contact them to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas.

Additional information on Federal trust species in Louisiana can be obtained from the Louisiana Ecological Services website at: www.fws.gov/lafayette or by calling 337/291-3100.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office

200 Dulles Drive

Lafayette, LA 70506

(337) 291-3100

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04EL1000-2020-SLI-0482

Event Code: 04EL1000-2020-E-02288

Project Name: State of Louisiana

Project Type: WATER QUALITY MODIFICATION

Project Description: Statewide criteria

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/30.937327411965153N91.63980971075344W>



Counties: Acadia, LA | Allen, LA | Ascension, LA | Assumption, LA | Avoyelles, LA | Beauregard, LA | Bienville, LA | Bossier, LA | Caddo, LA | Calcasieu, LA | Caldwell, LA | Cameron, LA | Catahoula, LA | Claiborne, LA | Concordia, LA | De Soto, LA | East Baton Rouge, LA | East Carroll, LA | East Feliciana, LA | Evangeline, LA | Franklin, LA | Grant, LA | Iberia, LA | Iberville, LA | Jackson, LA | Jefferson, LA | Jefferson Davis, LA | LaSalle, LA | Lafayette, LA | Lafourche, LA | Lincoln, LA | Livingston, LA | Madison, LA | Morehouse, LA | Natchitoches, LA | Orleans, LA | Ouachita, LA | Plaquemines, LA | Pointe Coupee, LA | Rapides, LA | Red River, LA | Richland, LA | Sabine, LA | St. Bernard, LA | St. Charles, LA | St. Helena, LA | St. James, LA | St. John the Baptist, LA | St. Landry, LA | St. Martin, LA | St. Mary, LA | St. Tammany, LA | Tangipahoa, LA | Tensas, LA | Terrebonne, LA | Union, LA | Vermilion, LA | Vernon, LA | Washington, LA | Webster, LA | West Baton Rouge, LA | West Carroll, LA | West Feliciana, LA | Winn, LA

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 24 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened
West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. <i>This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements.</i> Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum</i> Population: interior pop. No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8505	Endangered
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Red-cockaded Woodpecker <i>Picoides borealis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614	Endangered

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
<p>Gopher Tortoise <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i></p> <p>Population: West of Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers</p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6994</p>	Threatened
<p>Hawksbill Sea Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i></p> <p>There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3656</p>	Endangered
<p>Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i></p> <p>There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5523</p>	Endangered
<p>Leatherback Sea Turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></p> <p>There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1493</p>	Endangered
<p>Loggerhead Sea Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i></p> <p>Population: Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS</p> <p>There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110</p>	Threatened
<p>Louisiana Pinesnake <i>Pituophis ruthveni</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4092</p>	Threatened
<p>Ringed Map Turtle <i>Graptemys oculifera</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2664</p>	Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
<p>Dusky Gopher Frog <i>Rana sevosa</i></p> <p>There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5600</p>	Endangered

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Atlantic Sturgeon (gulf Subspecies) <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus (=oxyrhynchus) desotoi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/651	Threatened
Pallid Sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162	Endangered

Clams

NAME	STATUS
Fat Pocketbook <i>Potamilus capax</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780	Endangered
Inflated Heelsplitter <i>Potamilus inflatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7286	Threatened
Louisiana Pearlshell <i>Margaritifera hembeli</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8468	Threatened
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
American Chaffseed <i>Schwalbea americana</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1286	Endangered
Geocarpon minimum No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7699	Threatened

Ferns and Allies

NAME	STATUS
Louisiana Quillwort <i>Isoetes louisianensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7756	Endangered

Critical habitats

There are 2 critical habitats wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Atlantic Sturgeon (gulf Subspecies) <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus (=oxyrhynchus) desotoi</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/651#crithab	Final
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039#crithab	Final